

# The Hedingham School Newsletter

May 2026

Ready, Respect, Safe



## Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been an excellent couple of weeks in school although the days have flown by so quickly.

Last week we hosted the Year 8 Parents' Evening and I enjoyed my many conversations with parents as they moved between appointments. Thank you to all those parents who attended the evening. Year 11 and Year 13 students have been completing their practical examinations in Design and Technology over the last few weeks and it has been impressive to see some of the outcomes of their efforts.

Mr Hyde (Head of Sixth Form) is leading on assemblies from Tuesday and has been planning in readiness for them over the last few weeks. He wanted to speak to students about pathways former students have taken beyond Hedingham School and has used social media to reach out to our alumni. The response has been overwhelming. We have been inundated with responses from previous students stretching back many years. It is hugely rewarding to see where our students have progressed to and the amazing things they are now doing (including a nuclear submarine designer, diplomats, engineers, paratroopers, farriers, doctors etc). Some are working overseas, some have won awards, so many have excelled.

I hope we can tie some of the stories of their life journey beyond Hedingham School into our alumni section of our website. I'll look forward to assemblies next week.

Year 11 examinations officially start on Thursday 8 May with their written Sport Studies exam. We then have our first big English exam the following Monday. As we enter this crucial period, I wish the Year 11 students all the very best of luck. I'm not sure the weather is great this bank holiday weekend—perfect for some focused revision time!

## Year 10 Work Experience

Year 10 will embark on Work Experience during 8-10 July this year. Many students have already secured a placement with a local company and are looking forward to gaining a valuable insight into the world of work. If any Year 10 parent has not completed the online form to indicate where your child will be going please do so as soon as possible or contact [hed.batchd@hedingham.essex.sch.uk](mailto:hed.batchd@hedingham.essex.sch.uk) if you have any questions. Should you wish to volunteer to host a student(s) in your company, then please let Mr Batch know at the above email address.

## Year 9 Careers Fair

On Thursday this week we hosted a Careers Fair for our Year 9 students to widen their knowledge of the range of opportunities available to them either post-16 or post-18. We welcomed representatives from local Sixth Form providers (West Suffolk College, and Colchester Institute), apprenticeship providers (Swann Engineering and Braintree District Council), public service (Essex Police) and employers (Care UK and Holmes and Hills Solicitors). The students were able to engage with the exhibitors, ask questions and find out what opportunities are available in their sector.



## Jack Petchey Winners

**Oliver Bowers, Year 8 Student, February 2026 Winner:** for his perseverance on the ski slopes during the ski trip in February. Even though Oliver fell quite badly, he never gave up and had a really great time on the slopes.

**Ciaran Leonard-O'Sullivan, Year 10 Student, April 2026 Winner:** for receiving the most votes from students who thought he was the most valued player in the recent Business competition, Made in Braintree. Ciaran was very motivated throughout the competition and a strong leader of his team. He also received praise from the representatives of Braintree Village who visited our school to coach the teams in their presentations.

**Eleanor King, Year 9 Student, May 2026 Winner:** for learning how to fly gliders from the age of 6. This is such a fantastic achievement. Her longest recorded single glider flight is over 2 hours. Eleanor plans to fly solo in July when she is 14.



**Mia Worrell, Year 10 Student, June 2026 Winner:** for being a brilliant student during the recent Paris trip. Not only did she take part in the performance, but she also read a lengthy script of musical act introductions. The concert was held in the Jardin de Luxembourg with large crowds watching her and she did so well by speaking the language in front of so many native speakers. Mia was understandably nervous at first, but she plucked up courage and pushed through, delivering the script with confidence and clarity.



Jack Petchey winners receive a cheque for £300 which can be spent on a project of their choice in school.

These students are a credit to the school, their families and themselves.

Well done!

## Jack Petchey Speak-Out

The lights were bright and the stakes were high at Saffron Walden County High School recently, as it played host to the prestigious Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. This annual event, known for bringing together the most articulate young minds in the region, reached a new fever pitch this year.

The calibre of oratory was the highest to date. The room was filled with powerful narratives and sharp wit, making the atmosphere both electric and incredibly competitive.

Representing Hedingham School were the formidable Maddison Zalameda and Scarlet Pickard-Young. Standing on a stage can be a daunting task for anyone, but our students rose to the occasion with poise and passion that left the audience and the judges truly impressed.

Maddison delivered a brilliant performance, commanding the room with clarity and confidence. Her ability to engage the audience and articulate her message was a testament to her hard work and natural talent.

Scarlet followed suit with an equally captivating speech. Her delivery was so impactful that she secured a well-deserved third place finish in a field of exceptionally strong speakers.

We couldn't be prouder of Maddison and Scarlet. They didn't just represent our school; they acted as ambassadors for the power of youth voice. To compete at this level and stand out amongst the best in the area is a massive achievement.

Congratulations to both girls for their courage, their eloquence, and for reminding us all that the future of public speaking is in very capable hands!

## Year 11—The Final Push!

We're now into the home straight with Year 11, with the first formal written exam being held on Thursday 8 May. Many students have already had a taste of the real thing, with exams in Food, Art, and Design & Technology already having taken place. It has been a pleasure to drop by each of the exams and see the amazing creations that students are producing. We hope that this is building some real momentum to the written papers, and can help encourage students on the final run in.

We will be looking to support students with revision in school in a variety of ways in the coming weeks. Alongside their regular lessons, in which they will be revising hard, in subjects in which exams have already been completed (Art and D&T for instance), they will be receiving revision lessons run by Maths and English teachers. In Sport and Dance, once their exams are complete, members of staff from other subjects will be providing revision materials for them to ensure that time is being used productively.

Prior to each core exam (Maths, English, Science) we are planning drop down afternoons/mornings to hold a last minute revision session in preparation for their exams, where the whole cohort will 'drop down' and attend the subject. These strategies mean that it is imperative that students are in school and equipped throughout the examination period.

Finally, **GOOD LUCK!** To Year 11, we're all with you, and here to support you through these exams!

## Year 13s

We are now in the last few weeks with Year 13 before they start their A Level exams and their adult lives at universities, apprenticeships and careers. They have been working incredibly hard and there is a real focus and drive within the Sixth Form at the moment as they prepare for the most challenging exams of their lives.

Year 13s last formal day will be **Monday 18 May**, however, students are still welcome to come into Sixth Form to revise for their exams. Teachers will still be available during lesson time for students to come in and revise should they so wish. We will also be offering last minute revision sessions before each A Level exam to help give them that last boost of confidence before they go in.

Once exams have finished we still have our Summer Ball to look forward to in July and then results day which is on **Thursday 13 August**, more information about the day will be released nearer the time.

It has been an absolute joy working with these students over the past 2 years and we wish them all the best for their exams. I am confident that we will have some very happy faces on results day!

## Attendance Update

We have recently started using a platform called A Star Attendance to help manage school attendance. If you receive any communication from A Star, this is a legitimate email from Hedingham School relating to your child's attendance at school. This also includes any responses to leave of absence requests."

We're always looking at ways to celebrate student attendance at school. From Monday 11 May to Friday 22 May we will be running the 100% challenge. If your child can achieve 100% attendance during those 10 calendar days, they will be able to collect a small prize from reception. More details will be provided to students next week.

